

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

October 03, 1981

POLAND: Walesa's Victory

Solidarity chief Walesa's narrow margin of victory in the balloting yesterday for chairmanship of the union probably will require him to pay more attention to the views of the organization's militants.

Walesa received just 55 percent of the vote, with his three militant rivals splitting the other valid ballots. Early in the congress, his supporters had been predicting that Walesa would win an overwhelming victory, with as much as 80 percent of the votes. Although Walesa's immediate reaction was to warn those who voted against him that "they should not stand too much in my way," this appears to be an emotional response rather than a realistic appraisal of his future relations with the militants.

The regime probably has mixed feelings about Walesa's victory. Although it is pleased that he won, it probably is dismayed over the prospect of having to deal with someone who may be less inclined to compromise. Walesa can justifiably claim that he is under strong pressure from within the union to stand firm.

Congress organizers reportedly are aiming for adjournment tomorrow, but the delegates must still complete action on the lengthy union platform and vote on the resolution on workers' self-management. A Polish diplomat reports that a two-day party Central Committee session is scheduled to begin tomorrow, presumably to assess the results of the congress.

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Meat Supplies

The government's 30-percent increase in the price paid to farmers for slaughter hogs is unlikely to increase substantially the amount of meat in the state marketing system. The new procurement price announced on Thursday is still half the price of hogs on the black market, and government efforts to crack down on black market sales appear to have had little impact. The state could increase purchases of livestock--which in August were 30 percent below procurements last year--if it were able to deliver the coal and other agricultural products that it offers in exchange. [REDACTED]